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Woman's Rights Convention, held at Syracuse, N. Y., composed of one hundred and fifty delegates, the old maids, childless wives, and bedlamites were to each other as the figures of 7 and 3. How many were there of the old maids?"

OLIVER H. RUSSELL.

IX.

WOMEN AND WAR-POLICIES.

TO THE student of social problems a very interesting question is raised by the evident inclination of the principal European states to increase their standing armies. With 8,000,000 men already under arms on the continent of Europe, and a reserve of 14,000,000 prepared to be called into the field at any moment, and with such a disposition to increase this enormous number as was shown by the vote of the German Reichstag to add 700,000 men to their army, and by the recent decision of the French Senate to increase both army and navy, it is impossible not to speculate upon the effect which the withdrawal from actual life of such vast numbers of young men will have upon the social order. The status of woman is a prominent factor in every social question of to-day. It enters into—it may almost be said to form the basis of—nearly all economic problems, and from the economic, no less than the moral, stand-point it is of prime importance here. What will be the effect upon women, and how will the evolution of society at large be affected by the present method of preserving the peace of Europe?

It is evident that the withdrawal of so many men from active life must bring women to the front in business matters. Thus the development of women in intelligence, in shrewdness, in administrative ability, will be rapidly carried forward, *pari passu*, with that moral and industrial deterioration of the young men which is the inevitable result of barrack life. The effect of these opposing influences cannot but be felt.

How far it will influence the solution of some of the most perplexing social questions of the day is an interesting subject for reflection. The temperance question is now looming up portentously, both in wine-drinking France and in beer-drinking Germany. The question of social purity, and of that blackest curse upon women's lives, the so-called social evil, is imperatively demanding attention. Will these questions, and others hardly less vitally affecting women, be met upon sounder and safer grounds when woman's influence has become a more fully recognized force in social dynamics?

It may be argued that it takes long periods of time and many generations of human life to work out a change of character so marked as to affect institutions or customs. Such has, indeed, been hitherto the case, but the change that has come over European women, especially German women, within the present generation, is too marked not to be highly suggestive. The French woman of the lower-middle class has long enjoyed a remarkable degree of freedom in the business world. She has been the head and her husband the hand, and any result of the withdrawal of the man from her side will be slow to make itself felt. But the German woman has always been secluded from active life; the home has been preëminently her sphere. Education, temperament, and circumstance have combined to make her to the highest degree sentimental, self-abnegating, unpractical, in all but domestic concerns. The change which has come over her life within the past few years has, therefore, had the more marked effect upon her character. And the fact that to-day the women of Germany are more efficiently organized in their trade and educational and social unions, that the movement to secure their personal and commercial rights is on a sounder basis than in any other country in the world, shows that social changes, even when dependent on character and opinion, are not necessarily slow. It gives some hint of what may be expected in the years that are to come, if the peace of Europe continues to be maintained by the means now employed.

LOUISE SEYMOUR HOUGHTON.